

1 CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for sending improved quality video data to a client, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 sending a video stream to said client in accordance with a set of streaming
4 constraints, said video stream comprising at least a subset of video
5 information from a first source;
6 receiving a signal indicating a relaxation of said streaming constraints;
7 in response to said signal, accessing a set of improved quality video information
8 from a second source, said improved quality video information comprising
9 an improved quality version of at least a subset of the video information in
10 said video stream; and
11 sending said set of improved quality video information to said client.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of accessing said set of improved
2 quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said second
5 source; and
6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said second source
7 based upon said second reference point.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said set of improved quality video information
2 comprises a still image.

- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said still image takes the form of an image file
2 selected from a group consisting of a JPEG file, a GIF file, a BMP file, a TIFF
3 file, a PIC file, a MAC file and a PCD file.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said signal indicates that video information is to
2 be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate, wherein said improved
3 quality video information comprises a plurality of still images, and wherein said
4 step of sending said set of improved quality video information comprises the step
5 of sending said plurality of still images to said client for display at said slower
6 presentation rate.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said second source comprises a set of
2 preprocessed video information which is ready to be streamed, and wherein said
3 improved quality video information comprises at least a subset of said
4 preprocessed video information.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said signal indicates that video information is to
2 be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate, and wherein said step of
3 sending said set of improved quality video information comprises the step of
4 streaming said improved quality video information to said client at an appropriate
5 streaming rate to accommodate said slower presentation rate.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of accessing said set of improved
2 quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said set of
5 preprocessed video information; and

6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said set of
7 preprocessed video information based upon said second reference point.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said signal is a pause control signal.

1 10. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 sending improved quality video data to a client, comprising the steps of, wherein
3 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5 sending a video stream to said client in accordance with a set of streaming
6 constraints, said video stream comprising at least a subset of video
7 information from a first source;
8 receiving a signal indicating a relaxation of said streaming constraints;
9 in response to said signal, accessing a set of improved quality video information
10 from a second source, said improved quality video information comprising
11 an improved quality version of at least a subset of the video information in
12 said video stream; and
13 sending said set of improved quality video information to said client.

1 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said step of accessing said
2 set of improved quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said second
5 source; and
6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said second source
7 based upon said second reference point.

1 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said set of improved quality
2 video information comprises a still image.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said still image takes the
2 form of an image file selected from a group consisting of a JPEG file, a GIF file, a
3 BMP file, a TIFF file, a PIC file, a MAC file and a PCD file.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said signal indicates that
2 video information is to be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate,
3 wherein said improved quality video information comprises a plurality of still
4 images, and wherein said step of sending said set of improved quality video
5 information comprises the step of sending said plurality of still images to said
6 client for display at said slower presentation rate.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said second source
2 comprises a set of preprocessed video information which is ready to be streamed,
3 and wherein said improved quality video information comprises at least a subset
4 of said preprocessed video information.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein said signal indicates that
2 video information is to be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate,
3 and wherein said step of sending said set of improved quality video information
4 comprises the step of streaming said improved quality video information to said
5 client at an appropriate streaming rate to accommodate said slower presentation
6 rate.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein said step of accessing said
2 set of improved quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said set of
5 preprocessed video information; and
6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said set of
7 preprocessed video information based upon said second reference point.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein said signal is a pause
2 control signal.

1 19. An apparatus configured to send improved quality video data to a client, the
2 apparatus comprising:
3 a first source for video information, wherein said first source of video information
4 has stored thereon at least a subset of video information corresponding to a
5 video stream;
6 a second source for improved quality video information, wherein said second
7 source comprises an improved quality version of at least a subset of the
8 video information in said video stream; and
9 a video server, coupled to said first source and said second source, wherein said
10 video server is configured to stream video information from said first
11 source in accordance with a set of streaming constraints, and, in response
12 to a signal indicating a relaxation of said set of streaming constraints, to
13 send improved quality video information from said second source.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said video server is further configured to:

2 determine a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
3 correlate said first reference point with a second reference point in said second
4 source; and
5 retrieve said set of improved quality video information from said second source
6 based upon said second reference point.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said improved quality video information
2 comprises a still image.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said still image takes the form of an image file
2 selected from a group consisting of a JPEG file, a GIF file, a BMP file, a TIFF
3 file, a PIC file, a MAC file and a PCD file.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said signal indicates that video information is
2 to be displayed at the client at a slower presentation rate, wherein said improved
3 quality video information comprises a plurality of still images, and wherein said
4 video server is further configured to send said plurality of stills to the client for
5 display at said slower presentation rate.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said second source comprises a set of
2 preprocessed video information which is ready to be streamed, and wherein said
3 improved quality video information comprises at least a subset of said
4 preprocessed video information.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said signal indicates that video information is
2 to be displayed at the client at a slower presentation rate, and wherein said video
3 server is further configured to stream said improved quality video information to

4 the client at an appropriate streaming rate to accommodate said slower
5 presentation rate.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said video server is further configured to:
2 determine a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
3 correlate said first reference point with a second reference point in said set of
4 preprocessed video information; and
5 retrieve said set of improved quality video information from said set of
6 preprocessed video information based upon said second reference point.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said signal is a pause control signal.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said video server comprises:
2 a stream server, wherein said stream server is configured to receive said signal
3 and to send video information; and
4 a video pump, coupled to said stream server and said first source and said second
5 source, wherein said video pump is configured to communicate with said
6 stream server and access information from said first source and said
7 second source;

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